

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/903,705

Examiner

Yolanda Wilson

Applicant(s)

GOODMAN ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment received on 01/18/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-49.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 13 July 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  - \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 1-49 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reason for the allowance of claims 1-9 is the inclusion of the limitations at least a plurality of processor nodes each having information of relative locations of said processor nodes on said multi-drop bus network; said plurality of processor nodes each independently testing access to at least one other of said processor nodes on said multi-drop bus network; said failure detecting processor node determining from said information of relative locations the processor node having failed access which is closest to said failure detecting processor node; and said failure detecting processor node storing an identification of said closest processor node having failed access.

The primary reason for the allowance of claims 10-19 is the inclusion of the limitations each of a plurality of said processor nodes having information providing relative locations of said processor nodes on said multi-drop bus network; said plurality of processor nodes each independently testing access to at least one other of said processor nodes on said multi-drop bus network; said failure detecting processor node determining from said information of relative locations the processor node having failed access which is closest to said failure detecting processor node, and storing an identification of said closest processor node having failed access.

The primary reason for the allowance of claims 20-29 is the inclusion of the limitations a processor independently testing access to other said processor nodes on

said multi-drop bus network; determining from said information table of relative locations the processor not having failed access which is closest to said failure detecting processor node, and storing an identification of said closest processor node having failed access.

The primary reason for the allowance of claims 30-38 is the inclusion of the limitations computer readable program code which causes said computer processor to test independently of other of said processor nodes access to at least one other of said processor nodes on said multi-drop bus network; to determine from said provided information of relative locations the processor node having failed access which is closest to said failure detecting processor node; and computer readable program code which causes said computer processor to store an identification of said closest processor node having failed access.

The primary reason for the allowance of claims 39-49 is the inclusion of the limitations said processor nodes each independently testing access to other said processor nodes on said multi-drop bus network; said failure detecting processor node determining, from said information of relative locations the processor node having failed access which is closest to said failure detecting processor node; and said failure detecting processor node storing an identification of said closest processor node having failed access

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yolanda Wilson whose telephone number is (571) 272-3653. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Beausoliel can be reached on (571) 272-3645. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Yolanda Wilson  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2113

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ROBERT BEAUSOLIEL  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100